

GRAIN, CATTLE, HOG, & MILK BFP FUTURES MARKETS

Markets Courtesy of Chicago Board and Mercantile Exchange
Closing Bids: Thursday, December 26, 2002

Corn

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge
12/24/02 *CASH*		2456	2456	2456	unch
12/26/02 MAR 03	2420	2434	2416	2426	unch
12/26/02 MAY 03	2444	2462	2440	2456	+4
12/26/02 JUL 03	2480	2494	2476	2486	+2
12/26/02 SEP 03	2444	2460	2444	2452	+4
12/26/02 DEC 03	2412	2432	2412	2424	+4
12/26/02 MAR 04	2474	2490	2474	2482	+6
12/26/02 MAY 04	2502	2502	2502	2502	+4
12/26/02 JUL 04	2510	2514	2510	2510	+4
12/26/02 DEC 04	2412	2412	2404	2404	unch

Total	Volume	Open_Int
12/23/02		437573

Soybeans

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge
12/24/02 *CASH*		5625	5625	5625	unch
12/26/02 JAN 03	5714	5714	5654	5656	-70
12/26/02 MAR 03	5664	5670	5616	5622	-56
12/26/02 MAY 03	5584	5584	5544	5546	-50
12/26/02 JUL 03	5560	5560	5514	5520	-46
12/26/02 AUG 03	5454	5454	5440	5440	-40
12/26/02 SEP 03	5264	5264	5264	5264	-34
12/26/02 NOV 03	5124	5124	5100	5104	-30
12/26/02 JAN 04	5140	5140	5140	5140	-34
12/26/02 MAR 04	5154	5154	5154	5154	-40
12/26/02 NOV 04	4852	4852	4852	4852	-6

Total	Volume	Open_Int
12/23/02		209777

Soybean Meal

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge
12/24/02 *CASH*		16800	16800	16800	unch
12/26/02 JAN 03	1678	1680	1650	1652	-36
12/26/02 MAR 03	1667	1667	1649	1651	-26
12/26/02 MAY 03	1658	1658	1643	1643	-18
12/26/02 JUL 03	1640	1645	1633	1635	-14
12/26/02 AUG 03	1620	1622	1613	1617	-9
12/26/02 SEP 03	1585	1590	1580	1581	-14
12/26/02 OCT 03	1550	1550	1535	1535	-20
12/26/02 DEC 03	1545	1545	1529	1530	-17
12/26/02 JAN 04	1535	1535	1528	1528	-17
12/26/02 MAR 04	1536	1536	1536	1536	-7
12/26/02 MAY 04	1543	1543	1543	1543	-7
12/26/02 JUL 04	1552	1552	1552	1552	-3
12/26/02 DEC 04	1578	1578	1578	1578	-10

Total	Volume	Open_Int
12/23/02		140478

Lean Hogs

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Previous Volume	Previous Open_Int
12/24/02 *CASH*	0	4447	4447	4447	-246	0	0
12/26/02 Feb 03	5310	5425	5300	5397	+82	131	20693
12/26/02 Apr 03	5930	6047	5930	6042	+102	29	8186
12/26/02 May 03	6360	6445	6342	6435	+70	16	2103
12/26/02 Jun 03	6590	6690	6570	6685	+73	27	4781
12/26/02 Jul 03	6285	6375	6280	6372	+62	1	1467
12/26/02 Aug 03	6050	6085	6050	6067	+22	0	1017
12/26/02 Oct 03	5297	5310	5297	5302	unch	0	249
12/26/02 Dec 03	5197	5225	5197	5225	+48	0	69
12/26/02 Feb 04	5375	5375	5375	5375	+5	0	0

Composite Volume Open_Int

12/23/02	204	38565
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Live Cattle

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Previous Volume	Previous Open_Int
12/24/02 *CASH*	0	7179	7179	7179	unch	0	0
12/26/02 Dec 02	7535	7535	7490	7510	-10	103	3450
12/26/02 Feb 03	7930	7945	7885	7920	+5	130	52984
12/26/02 Apr 03	7805	7810	7780	7792	-5	191	31110
12/26/02 Jun 03	7200	7210	7182	7205	unch	3	17899
12/26/02 Aug 03	7007	7020	7000	7017	+5	6	5602
12/26/02 Oct 03	7160	7160	7147	7152	+22	0	1106

Composite Volume Open_Int

12/23/02	433	112153
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Pork Bellies

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Previous Volume	Previous Open_Int
12/24/02 *CASH*	0	8000	8000	8000	+400	0	0
12/26/02 Feb 03	8925	8935	8795	8902	+52	29	2095
12/26/02 Mar 03	8770	8780	8660	8750	+25	0	357
12/26/02 May 03	8820	8890	8780	8800	+40	2	130
12/26/02 Jul 03	8830	8850	8765	8850	+110	0	176
12/26/02 Aug 03	8700	8700	8700	8700	unch	0	10

Composite Volume Open_Int

12/23/02	31	2768
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Oats

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge
12/24/02 *CASH*		2192	2192	2192	unch
12/26/02 MAR 03	2056	2062	2044	2046	+4
12/26/02 MAY 03	1954	1960	1954	1960	+10
12/26/02 JUL 03	1770	1770	1770	1770	+10
12/26/02 SEP 03	1550	1550	1550	1550	unch
12/26/02 DEC 03	1564	1564	1564	1564	+4
12/26/02 MAR 04	1580	1580	1580	1580	unch

Total	Volume	Open_Int
12/23/02		5920

Weekly Dairy Market Outlook



Ken Bailey
Professor of
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Dairy Marketing and Policy
Penn State

Dec. 20, 2002 HEADING HOME FROM MOLDOVA

- Milk production slows.
- November butter and cheese inventories higher.
- Work in the village is complete!

I've finished my work in the village of Ignatei, Moldova. As I mentioned last week, I'm doing volunteer work for Citizen's Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA). I'm helping a one-year-old dairy cooperative devel-

op a marketing plan. I completed my assignment and the co-op board accepted my marketing plan. Now I have one more day before I head back to the good old USA!

The markets were largely neutral on reaction to USDA's Milk Production and Cold Storage reports. The November Milk Production report showed production for 20 major dairy states up 1.8 percent from a year ago. This represents a slowdown in the rate of growth in the milk sup-

ply. However, cow numbers continue to grow. States that had positive growth in cow numbers include Arizona, California, Idaho, Iowa, New Mexico, New York, and Ohio.

The November Cold Storage report also had some bad news. Butter inventories in November were up 135 percent from a year ago to 136.3 million pounds. American cheese inventories were up 8 percent from a year ago to 474.4 million pounds, and Other cheese inventories were up 10 percent in November to 200.9 million pounds. It is surprising that cheese and butter inventories can be so high given the slowdown in milk production. This is likely due to a combination of weak demand and some imports.

Life in the city of Chisinau is very modern and sophisticated. I'll be attending a Russian ballet this afternoon. There is a world-famous winery just outside of town. It is very different in the villages. There are good opportunities to help the villagers in Moldova with rural economic development. CNFA has an agribusiness program designed to help develop sustainable businesses and cooperatives.

Life in Moldovan villages became even harder after the fall of the Soviet Union. The villagers had become accustomed to life under a command economy. Now, they are supposed to think for themselves and seek out profitable alternatives. That is what the agribusiness program is trying to do, train the villagers.

Many of the older pensioners now have very little to live on. Many young people flee the village for better opportunities elsewhere. But the villages need young, enterprising, and educated farmers to jump-start the rural economy. Many would prefer to stay if they had better opportunities. The purpose of my project was to help a young cooperative develop so that they can generate hard cash to earn a living.

People in the villages are very nice and friendly. They invited me into their homes and offered me all their food and wine. I very much appreciated their hospitality. The villagers were happy to see me and they had a positive image of the U.S.

The concept of a cooperative is

(Turn to Page A19)

Average Farm Feed Costs for Handy Reference

To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop livestock feed cost data, here's last week's average costs of various ingredients as compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania.

Remember, these are averages, so you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

- Corn, No.2y — 2.99 bu., 5.34 cwt.
- Wheat, No.2 — 3.43 bu., 5.66 cwt.
- Barley, No.3 — 2.07 bu., 4.42 cwt
- Oats, No 2 — 1.90 bu., 5.91 cwt
- Soybeans, No 1 — 5.67 bu., 9.47 cwt.
- Ear Corn — 86.29 ton, 4.32 cwt.
- Alfalfa Hay — 147.50 ton, 7.38 cwt.
- Mixed Hay — 145.00 ton, 7.25 cwt.
- Timothy Hay — 140.50 ton, 7.03 cwt.